MEMO TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Trudy M. W. Schwarz, Community Planning Director

Planning and Code Administration

VIA: Jim Arnoult, Director of Department of Public Works, Park Maintenance and

Engineering

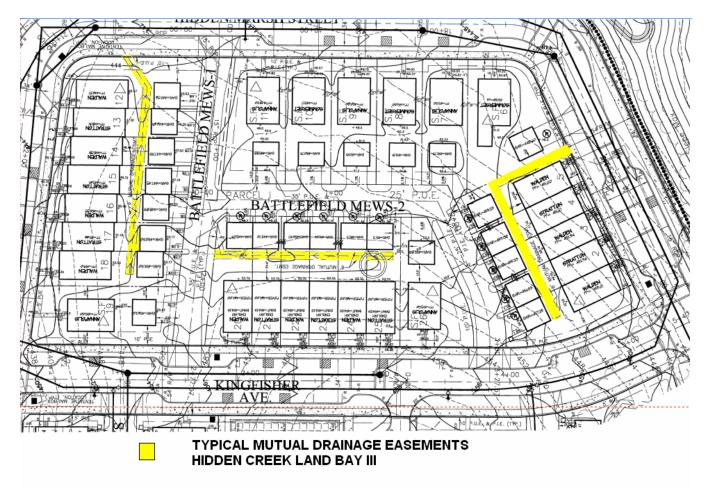
Greg Ossont, Director of Planning and Code Administration

Lauren Pruss, Planning Director, Planning and Code Administration

DATE: July 5, 2007

SUBJECT: Hidden Creek Land Bay III, Mutual Drainage Easements Staff Policy

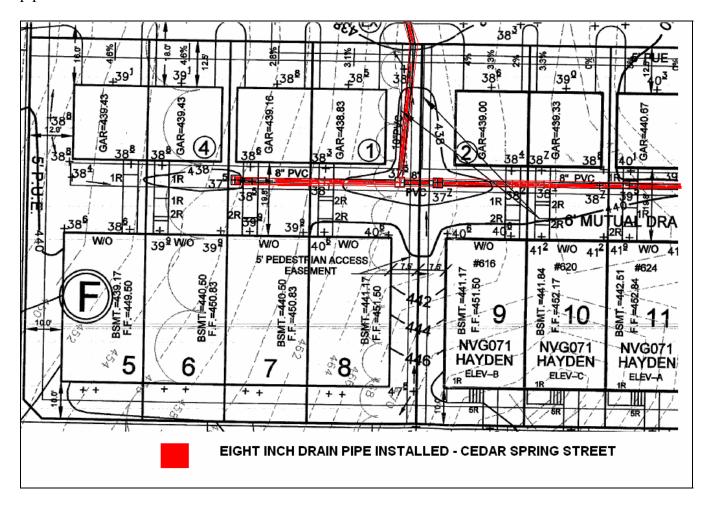
At the time of the approval of the Schematic Development Plan (SDP) and the Final Site Plans (SP) for Hidden Creek Land Bay III, the Department of Public Works, Park Maintenance and Engineering (DPWPM&E) and Planning and Code Administration (PC&A) staff raised concerns about drainage through the lots in SP-03-0009, where the garage is a separate structure from the unit. The applicant, Centex, responded to this concern by putting a six-foot drainage easement between the house and the garage on the site plan.



At the time of final subdivision (record) plat, a ten-foot wide drainage easement was established by the applicant. See attached Record Plat. The language on the plat states the following:

No structure of any nature whatsoever may be constructed within the ten (10) foot Mutual Drainage Easement shown hereon with the consent of the City of Gaithersburg Planning Commission and Department of Public Works. Decks connected to the primary structure may extend no more than three feet into the ten (10) foot Mutual Drainage Easement.

During construction of the lots, Centex was required to put in drain pipes in certain Mutual Drain Easements where the grading of the land did not allow proper surface drainage. The required drain pipes are installed as needed.



Staff has received a number of requests for decks and fences (three are pending) and would like the Planning Commission to allow staff to establish a policy to work with the homeowners. Staff from both departments met on site at Hidden Creek to establish the following recommended guidelines for the Mutual Drainage Easements:

1. Since they pose no blockage of water drainage, posts and footings for decks may be in the Mutual Drainage Easement (MDE), but may be no closer than one foot from an existing pipe if

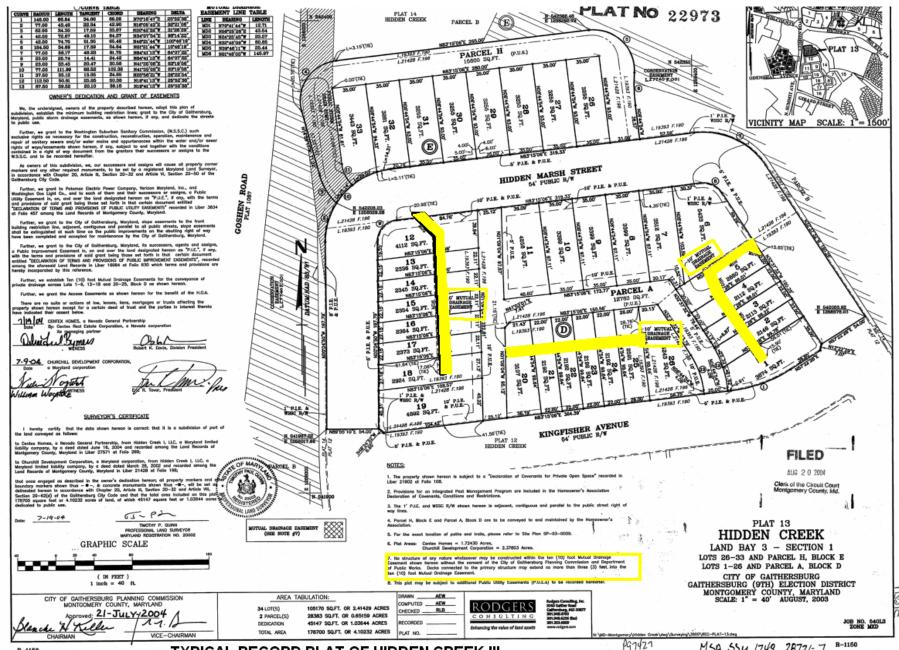
there is one on the property. All Deck posts shall be located between the back of the house and the pipe, if one exists.

- 2. The top of the deck footing on lots with a drainage pipe and/or yard drain shall be lower than the bottom of the pipe and/or yard drain. See attached Diagram 1.
- 3. No ground level decks shall be allowed in the MDE.
- 4. No wall structures shall be allowed in the MDE.
- 5. The bottom of the fence, except for the posts, shall be four inches above the existing grade.
- 6. No other structures (such as sheds, covered breeze ways, etc.) shall be allowed in the MDE
- 7. All applicants and/or builders shall cooperate with P&CA Permits and Inspection personnel to field-locate the post in order to avoid conflict between the yard drains and pipes.
- 8. All ground level patios shall be designed to allow continued runoff of water and be approved by the DPWPM&E to ensure proper drainage prior to the installation of any materials or issuance of any permits.

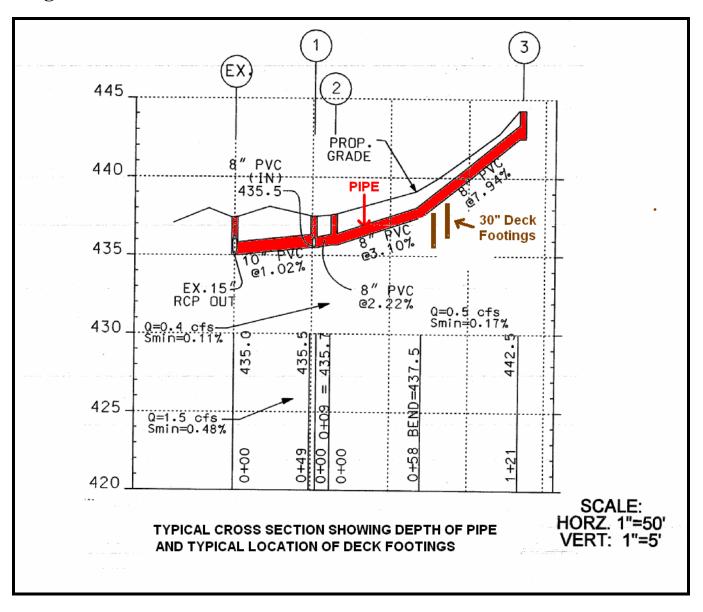
## Attachments:

Record Plat showing typical Mutual Drainage Easement Diagram 1 showing footing lower then pipe List of property addresses tws

Final: S:Plancode/tschwarz/HiddenCreek/HC III Mutual Drainage Easements



## Diagram 1



## Addresses with Mutual Drainage Easements in Hidden Creek Land Bay III (49 Properties)

- 801 829 (odd #s) Hidden Marsh Street
- 861 897 (odd #s) Hidden Marsh Street
- 905 917 (odd #s) Hidden Marsh Street
- 600 624 (even #s) Kingfisher Avenue
- 600 652 (even #s) Cedar Spring Street
- 708 728 (even #s) Raven Avenue
- 741 757 (odd #s) Raven Avenue